

mize the disruptive effect on the communities concerned and to help civilian employees find other employment. Armed Forces personnel at the bases will be posted to vacant positions in other units.

At Rivers some 170 civilian and 300 military personnel, and at Gimli 200 civilian and 800 military personnel, will be affected.

Mr. Cadieux said that factors leading up to the decision were a general reduction in the size of the forces, a change in force priorities and the fixed defence budget.

CFB Rivers, located about 30 miles north and west of Brandon, and CFB Gimli, 55 miles north of Winnipeg, have been used primarily for air training by the Canadian Forces. A reduction in the pilot-training program, to meet the requirements of the new force structure, was announced last November by the Department. Other Training Command bases used for aircrew training are at Portage la Prairie and Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

The change means that of the three primary air training bases in Canada, two still remain in Manitoba, at Portage la Prairie and Winnipeg. Other flying training bases in the country are in the operational category, and do not exceed more than three in number in any one province.

Canadian Forces Base Rivers has been a military establishment since 1940, when the Royal Canadian Air Force set up No. 1 Air Navigation School there. After the Second World War the Canadian Parachute Training Centre and the Canadian Joint Air Training Centre were established at the base.

Canadian Forces Base Gimli was established in 1943, when No. 18 Service Flying Training School was opened there. Following the war, Gimli was used as a summer camp for Reserve squadrons and air cadets and, in 1950, No. 2 Flying Training School was formed. Advanced flying training at Gimli is carried out by No. 1 Canadian Forces Flying Training School, which will be moved to Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake, Alberta, where facilities already exist.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

There were 32,146 births in June (18.3 a thousand population), compared to 30,453 in June 1969. This brought the cumulative total for the first half of 1970 to 183,473 births, 0.2 percent more than in the corresponding period last year.

The total of 17,557 June marriages (10.0 for each 1,000 population), was 5.6 percent more than the 16,156 registered in June 1969, bringing the 1970 cumulative January-to-June total to 69,827 marriages, compared to 66,194 during the first half of 1969.

The total of 12,910 deaths in June (7.4 a thousand population), was an increase of 2.1 per cent over those recorded in June 1969. First-half-year totals were 79,673 in 1970, compared to 78,002 in 1969.

HOSPITAL FOR NORTHERNERS

Mary Louise Bearhead has been lying unconscious in the Charles Camsell Hospital in Edmonton, Alberta, since she was injured in an automobile accident in 1963. To report to her family on her condition, a nurse from the hospital travels 30 miles to their four-room house, nestled in a creekbed on an Indian reserve.

The staff of the Charles Camsell Hospital is made up of exceptional people. They realize that their patients have special needs — most of them are far away from home, since the hospital serves as a referral base for all northern residents. They also recognize and understand the background and culture of the Indians and Eskimos, and the attendant differences of attitudes towards sickness and disease, dietary habits, and sometimes — especially for the older people — language problems.

Patients at the Charles Camsell get special attention: they are taken on outings — they love car rides — or out shopping and sometimes to a staff member's home for a meal.

The idea of a special hospital for the North came about accidentally, says Elva Taylor, Director of Nursing at the hospital: "It began as a sanatorium for tuberculosis control and as TB began to be more under control we realized the benefits of a separate hospital for northerners. This need still exists, and possibly will continue to exist until "coast-to-coast" means more than a narrow strip of populated area along the southern border. The northern population is scattered. Many still live and work in isolated areas far from health care. Even radio-telephone contact with medical care is incomplete. Some communities can be reached only by chartered aircraft capable of landing on water or snow."

About 40 per cent of the patients are brought in by plane, and most enjoy the flight. An old Indian man, however, wasn't too impressed. He said that he had never been sick, that he wasn't sick when he left home, but they put him on the plane and now he was sick.

Hospital service to the northerners started in 1945 in the old Charles Camsell Hospital — a scattered collection of buildings that originally had been built in 1910 as a Jesuit College. The Department of National Defence converted them into a military hospital in 1944 and, at the end of the war, the buildings were turned over to the Department of National Health and Welfare. The hospital is now run by the Medical Services Branch of the Department, which assumes the role of a "provincial department of health" for the Yukon and Northwest Territories. It supervises both the hospital insurance plan and the public health program for all residents for the Northern Region, geographically one-third of Canada.

Since spring, 56,000,000 trees from provincial nurseries, distributed by the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, have been planted in Ontario; the principal species were white spruce, black spruce, jack pine, red pine and white pine.